

# Aztlan Warriors and White Knights

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## ABSTRACT

In recent years, there has been a crisis not only in economic matters but also in sociological and political matters. The crisis has exposed not only many differences between the members of the European market but also among the U.S. states about matters such as immigration or fear of terrorism. During the last decade, the United States have witnessed how population changes and external influences have changed their lifestyle. This has influenced many radicals to express many extremist ideas such as the conquest in the name of Aztlan or the racial fight promoted by the K.K.K. These two groups are promoting a very violent war between two very influential groups.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse certain aspects of the modern U.S. such as the open war between “Hispanics” and “White Knights”. It is interesting to see how modern social networks are recruiting new members to fight back the *reconquista* of Aztlan territories which affects most parts of the U.S. It is important to understand their intentions and motives in order to understand the real dimension of their actions and views. It is shocking to discover that a major fight is occurring between the “Hispanics” who are pushing upwards toward many Caucasians, who are striking back and are sometimes supported by the media and certain politicians. However, even if the war is coming to the surface with anti-immigration policies it is not well-known yet. This paper exposes the current situation between two different cultures that collide again as they did between England and Spain.

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## RESUMEN

Durante los últimos años la crisis ha sacado a relucir diversas facetas de nuestra sociedad actual, aspectos diferentes a los económicos, tales como sociológicos y políticos. Por ejemplo la crisis ha dejado al descubierto las diferencias existentes entre los miembros de la comunidad económica europea y también entre los estados de Norte América en temas tan variados como la lucha antiterrorista o aspectos migratorios. Durante la última década, Estados Unidos ha experimentado una corriente migratoria que ha cambiado muchos aspectos de la sociedad. Esto ha contribuido a que muchos grupos radicales hayan aprovechado el momento para iniciar una cruzada, como la recuperación de los territorios de Aztlan por un lado y la limpieza étnica promovida por el Ku Klux Klan. Estos dos grupos antagonistas están iniciando una guerra que difícilmente tenga solución.

El propósito de este artículo es hacer una exposición y análisis de la situación que vive Estados Unidos y la guerra abierta entre Latinos y grupos racistas. Es interesante descubrir como las nuevas tecnologías están ayudando a una expansión del fanatismo sin límites, para hacer frente a lo que se considera la invasión de Aztlan, que consiste en la recuperación de sus territorios los cuales cubren gran parte de los Estados Unidos. Es importante conocer toda la dimensión del acontecimiento y de cómo esta cruzada está siendo alimentada por los políticos y la televisión, quienes están recrudeciendo la guerra racial. Sin embargo, incluso si hoy día la situación se está coinvirtiendo en tema candente, la hora de la verdad está por llegar. Este artículo muestra como este problema viene de lejos, de la guerra entre españoles e ingleses.

Palabras clave: Latinos, Hispanos, Ilegales, Aztlan, Ku Klux Klan, Inmigración, Guerra Racial, Reconquista, Gripe A.

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## 1. "HISPANICS" IN THE U.S.

### 1.1. *An Introduction of Anglo- "Hispanic" relationships*

The history of "Hispanics" in America was established by Columbus during his first journey. An increasing number of soldiers, priests and kings have spread their heritage among Native Americans and the customs in their country. It occurred during a period in which Spain and England waged a bloody conflict to maintain their

supremacy and trade monopoly in America. It was a time when England and Spain were eternal foes which tried to maintain their control on the rest of the world. They invaded distant land masses all over the world.

It is clear that both countries tried to present negative propaganda to convince other countries and their own population about the undesired characteristics of their enemies. It is remarkable that the war between Spanish and English speaking countries began in Europe but spread to America. Their opinions and views of their opponents were primarily based on prejudices and stereotypes. According to England, Spaniards were cruel, loose, greedy, and greasy, while the English were racist and merciless pirates.

England eventually influenced most North American territories while Spain influenced most of South America. After gaining their independence from England, the new country continuously tried to expand their territory to the South. This initiated a racial debate when President James Polk wrote "The American Whig Review", (July 4, 1846) in which he commented that

Mexico was poor, distracted, in anarchy, and almost in ruins-what could she do to stay the hand of our power, to impede the march of our greatness? We are Anglo-Saxon Americans; it was our "destiny" to possess and to rule this Continent- we were bound to it! We were a chosen people, and this our allotted inheritance, and we must drive out all other nations before us (Rivera 227).

This mentality contributed to the spark which started the Mexican War, which allowed the U.S to find room for hundreds of thousands of uninvited immigrants. United States won the war and disposed Mexicans of their land in order to accommodate newcomers. They took Mexican land to establish new settlements. It is exactly what Mexicans are doing now, in a movement called by some Aztlan. After the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ended the Mexican War, lands in the Southern states were expropriated from Mexico with no compensation. The original inhabitants of these territories were excluded and never allowed to come back again. These two neighboring countries established boundaries which never could be taken apart. Since the expropriation of Mexican land, its original inhabitants continuously immigrated into that very well known territory. A promised territory was reclaimed under the name of Aztlan.

The term was first taken up by a group of Chicano independence activists led by Oscar Zeta Acosta during the Chicano movement of the 1960s and the 1970s. They gave the name Aztlan to territory from the lands of Northern Mexico that were annexed by the United States as a result of the Mexican-American War. Aztlan is now perceived as a real threat against the interests of the United States. As a result, some U.S. extremist

groups such as the K.K.K. are striking back at what they consider the effects of Aztlan or “re-conquista”.

Since the beginning, Anglo farmers in the Southwest called the first immigrants from Mexico “Chicanos” to denigrate Mexican workers. During the 1960’s, Mexican-American social and political activists adopted the term as their own. However, “Chicano” refers only to someone of Mexican-American origin, but not to all Spanish speaking communities. There are few similarities among all Spanish speaking countries other than the language and the Christian religion. These countries are drastically different from each other. Some Spanish speaking countries have diverse races while Spanish colonies were located all over the world in a variety of places such as Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

There are many real differences between different Spanish speaking countries. According to Geraldo Rivera, who is a Puerto Rican descent, “Certainly, there are *caudillos* and *caballeros* from Cuba or Argentina or Spain who think of themselves as ethnically Hispanic and/or Latino, but consider themselves racially as white men. They would be horrified to be described as “brown”. It is notable that Spanish speaking countries are very diverse and their inhabitants are multiracial. However, they are all considered Mexicans and are treated as such. “Hispanic” is a very confusing term to citizens from Spanish speaking counties (Rivera 37).

“Hispanics” are not always Mexican because many of these immigrants arrived from distant countries. It is remarkable that most U.S. immigrants from diverse countries suffered the same prejudice that “Hispanics” suffer today. Irish, Italians, Chinese, Jews and now Mexicans and Hispanics have all suffered prejudice and violent attacks.

The following public notice was popular during the nineteenth century: “Positively No Irish Need Apply”. Anti-Irish gangs were formed and Anglo-Protestant activists formed their own political party, called the Know-Nothings. They tried to suppress Irish immigration and to keep the newcomers from becoming naturalized citizens. This is happening again with movements such as the K.K.K. which is now targeting “Hispanics”.

These groups consider Aztlan a transformation to be a real threat and they perceive “Hispanics” to be a dynamic force that will contribute to develop in this country as the Irish have previously done. Spanish speakers have complained that they are always treated as “foreign”, a population that does not belong to the U.S even if they were born there (Rivera 29).

### 1.2. *"Hispanics" in a Decade*

Future of U.S. projections highlights the importance and influence that "Hispanics" will have in the nation. Some of these investigations conclude that these new generations will influence every aspect of their society resulting in a "Latinization" of the country. Latinization means the effect and mixture of Latino influences into the U.S. lifestyle, which according to some scholars is enriching both cultures simultaneously. Latinization is a series of Latino trends and influences that affect how U.S. citizens perceive the way that they view the world. Latinization results from a combination of influences from "Hispanics" in the United States from the twenty two different Spanish-speaking countries. "Latinos" or "Hispanics" who are integrated into the United States adopt new ways of living while the U.S. accepts a variety of Latino values, styles, and language. Some Hispanic influences in U.S. culture include music, dance, and food. However, there are other no widely accepted elements such as Mexican currency which have been assimilated. Some of the border cities have announced that they would accept Mexican pesos as well as U.S. currency as payment in some restaurants. It begun as a post holiday promotion for customers returning from Mexico with unused pesos but the idea had become so popular that it had been made a regular feature (Benitez 2).

"Hispanic" influences are very strong since they are present in every state. However, there are five states with a very significant "Hispanic" population: Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and California. In these states "Hispanics" are obtaining power. In 2005, Antonio Villaraigosa, became L.A.'s first "Hispanic" mayor. This illustrates the increasing influence and power of "Hispanics". Miami, is also very close to becoming a majority "Hispanic" city, with a population growth of 21 percent between 2000 and 2006, according to Geoscape American Marketscape DataStream in 2007 (Rivera 89).

Hispanic power has grown immensely in a short time. This is primarily a geographical factor since "Hispanics" and the U.S. share a common border. The second reason for "Hispanic" power is that they are growing in numbers while the size of the other groups has decreased. The final reason is because "Hispanics" have expanded their economic power and presence. These three factors have influenced and increased their political and voting power. Their growth in power and money make them the target of politicians, media marketers, corporations, labor unions, churches, criminals, racial groups, and nonprofit organizations (Gutierrez XVIII).

Hispanics have increased their importance in society in every form. This was described in a June 2006 report from Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, which analyzed the "Hispanic" influence on the housing market. This research showed that between

1995 and 2005 the number of Latinos who owned homes grew by 3.1 million, reaching 6.9 million in 2005. This is an 81 percent increase in the ten year period. Despite this increase, the Latino home ownership rate is only 48 percent (up from 42% in 1995). It is significantly lower than both the current national home ownership rate of 69 percent and the Caucasian non- Hispanic rate of 74 percent (Cisneros 183).

“Hispanics” are considered to be second class citizens for a number of reasons. The United States considers the Mexican border to be a gate that is providing all types of evil to the States. Nevertheless, terrorists have tried several times to penetrate the Canadian border, including the so-called Millennium Bomber. Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian living in Montreal, planned to bomb the Los Angeles International Airport on January 1, 2000. “Hispanics” in the border area are very commonly treated as terrorists. The U.S. has imprisoned a drug dealer of Arab descent who swore he had overheard a group of fellow Muslims in Mexico applauding TV images of 9/11. There are several factors which led the United States to consider links between “Hispanics” and terrorism such as the cases of Fidel Castro and the emerging figure of Chavez and his extremist allies (Rivera 125-127).

U.S. citizens are horrified by terrorists crossing the borders. There is a menace derived from immigration that has threatened U.S. citizens. Fox newscaster Lou Dobbs proclaimed that “The invasion of illegal aliens is threatening the health of many Americans”. Lou Dobbs in an April 2005 CNN broadcast commented that, “there were about nine hundreds cases of leprosy in forty years . . . There have been seven thousand in the past three years”. The report’s clear intention was to offer the message that sick Mexicans are carrying fearsome diseases that are infecting thousands of healthy Americans (Rivera 131).

The fact that Mexicans are considered plague carriers was confirmed with the “swine flu”. The leprosy alarm is not comparable to the most recent pandemic outbreak which occurred in the spring of 2009. A novel version of the influenza A (H1N1) virus was first detected in Mexico before spreading to more than 100 countries worldwide. Its exact origin has yet to be determined. However it appeared to be centered in Mexico, whose population was supposedly devastated by the flu. Americans reinforced their theory after many of the initial victims in other countries had recently visited Mexico as tourists and returned home with the disease. Therefore, the first fatality or pseudo mayhem in the United States was a consequence of the Mexican presence in the U.S. (Cockerham 56).

However, even though the H1N1 virus spread quickly, only a few deaths were reported outside of Mexico and in most cases the victims were already sick or infected

by other illnesses. The myth of the swine flu caused scientists to be uncertain why it was lethal in one place, and mild in other areas. The 2009 flu epidemic that erupted in Mexico was named H1N1 by scientists. Since it was originally a virus found in pigs, it is often called “swine flu.” There are few accounts of the real dimension of the flu. Many people believe that the flu was an invention created by the U.S. in order to stop immigration and to limit jobs to “Hispanics” in the USA. This is because when the outbreak occurred people were reticent to have a “Hispanic” bartender serving their food or even giving them a haircut (Ollhoff 28).

### *1.3. Current Hispanic Influence*

The current influence of “Hispanic” citizens is significant but future projections indicate that their importance will increase. It is projected that by 2025 the Hispanic/Latino populations of Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, and North Carolina will grow by 70 percent or more, compared to an overall national growth rate of less than 20 percent. The growth of this minority group, which is becoming a majority over the past ten years in the Midwest and South, has caused racial tensions as Ku Klux Klan demonstrations have shown. While employers hire “Hispanics” for every kind of job, various groups including townspeople, and the Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, former KKK grand dragon have requested to “kick the illegal aliens out” (Yeoman 2000, 36), (Dueñas 37).

The K.K.K. fears that the next America will be characterized by one out of every four Americans being “Hispanic” and one out of three with Mexican blood. Those facts disturb many people. The fear is getting generalized and supported not only by columnist George Ann Geyer who tends to agree with them, but also by the Ku Klux Klan. White Aryan Resistance founder and former Grand Dragon of the K.K.K., Tom Merger, calls for a rebellion and notorious former KKK leader David Duke agrees with them. The Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform (FAIR) John Tamon also agrees with them. In California former police clerk, Barbara Coe and her California Coalition for Immigration Reform are also in agreement (Lowery 77).

These extremist groups fear that immigration from Mexico and Latin America into the United States will continue to transform the U.S. and result in the re-Mexicanization of Aztlan and the latinization of the United States. A demographic study found that all of the U.S. states were becoming Latinized. In 2003, the Census Bureau reported that 53 percent of the 10 percent population increase by Latinos between 2000 and 2002 was due to immigration.

It means that immigrants continue to cross the borders while the United States spends some \$3 billion a year on the militarization of the U.S./Mexico border and arrests

about one million people every year. The census found that a minimum of 400,000 undocumented Mexicans successfully migrate to the United States annually and over 200,000 arrive via legal immigration. This shows that the migrant exodus is unstoppable. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census demographic projections, by 2050 Latinos will comprise some 25 percent or 100 million of the country's projected total population. They also found that the Caucasians' share of the population is expected to decrease to about 49 percent which would relegate them to a national minority status. Jeffrey Passel, a demographer at the Urban Institute in Washington, analyzed the Census and predicted that the "Hispanic" population could reach sixty million by 2020. He explains, "If current immigration and birth rates trends continue, Hispanics could account for 15.5% of the population in 2010 and 18% in 2020 (Navarro 676-677).

This increase of population may transform every aspect of American society. The huge number of Spanish speakers influences the media and T.V. programs. This is already happening with the introduction of bilingual shows for kids such as "Dora la Exploradora" or "Go Diego Go", which educate kids to understand a kind of "Spanglish" language clearly oriented to "Hispanics". This introduction of a new language could result that in ten years many people in the U.S.A. may speak two languages, which will help them to have more opportunities to develop compared to those who only will speak English. The influence of "Hispanics" has been evident in many ways such as the introduction of diverse foods in the United States. There are Mexican restaurants and other Spanish-oriented business all over the U.S. and in many cases they have successful franchises with Spanish names such as "Pollo Loco" or "Taco Bell". It is evident that there are more store signs in Spanish in U.S. towns than ever before and that they are increasing. There are even signs that you can read in certain places that say "English is spoken". Spanish names and Spanish family names are rivaling the number of Anglo Saxon names. This means that Garcia, Rodriguez and Martinez are competing with Smith or Wilson as the most popular names (Rivera 43).

Spanish speakers will also control a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives as presented by Cisneros in the following table. The table illustrates the estimates of "Hispanics" and their voting influence in U.S. states.



**Table 1.** Estimates of Future Latino Votes, 2012 and 2024, National and Selected States  
Latino Share of Statewide Vote

Year	Latino Vote (,000)	Total Vote (,000)	Latino (%)	California (%)	Florida (%)	New York (%)	Texas (%)
1976	2,098	86,698	2.4				
1980	2,453	93,066	2.6				
1984	3,092	101,878	3.0				
1988	3,710	102,224	3.6	7.9	7.0	5.7	13.8
1992	4,238	113,866	3.7	9.6	7.1	5.0	13.6
1996	4,928	105,017	4.7	11.7	9.2	7.5	17.1
2000	5,934	110,826	5.3	13.9	11.2	7.2	18.6
2004	7,587	125,736	6.0	16.2	11.2	8.0	19.3
2012	8,791	118,583	7.4	21.7	18.2	8.2	21.7
(estimated)							
2024	12,023	126,883	9.5				
(estimated)							

(Cisneros 446).

This table shows that “pure” Caucasian citizens will soon be relegated to a new minority status. According to many critics, these future demographic prospects will contribute to “La Re-Conquista de Aztlan”. This is feared by extremists such as K.K.K. and a large number of citizens. It is evident that the United States during the second half of twentieth century and the twenty-first century have become a more complex multicultural, multiracial, and multiethnic society. According to most estimates, Caucasian hegemony, particularly in states commonly referred as part of Aztlan, within a few decades will decline. It means that the “white racial dictatorship” is destined to change, as a result of the re-Mexicanization introduced by Aztlan and the Latinization of the United States. At that point, the United States will be a bilingual and bicultural country (Navarro 674).

In 1950, there were fewer than 4 million Hispanics living in the United States. By 2007, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there were over 45 million Hispanics, of whom at least 12 million were in the country illegally, and most of them were of Mexican origin. The current total of 45 million “Hispanics” is expected to double in the next twenty years. The current trend will make the United States a majority Hispanic nation by the end of the twenty first century. The reasons why “Hispanics” will be a majority are unavoidable since America’s Caucasian baby boom is over. The growth in the number of Hispanics accounts for almost half of the country’s total population growth. For instance, in Phoenix, Arizona between 1980 and 2000, the Hispanic

population nearly quadrupled. In the City of Los Angeles, Caucasians are already a minority, representing just 30 percent of the population, compared to a 48 percent “Hispanic” population share (Rivera 43-45).

Analysts believe that “La Re-Conquista de Aztlan” is occurring which is the re-conquering of some states such as California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico or Texas. However, this increase in “Hispanics” is occurring all over the United States. In Arkansas the Hispanic population grew at 48 percent, a rate faster than in any other state between 2000 and 2005 (75).

How will the nation react?

## 2 “HISPANICS” A MENACE TO CAUCASIANS

### 2.1. *Politics against “Hispanics”*

Many American politicians have discovered that if Hispanic population growth continues, Caucasians will lose all their political power. That is why many Caucasian politicians are trying in vain to stop immigration. Tom Tancredo of Colorado believes that “The impact of immigration, legal and illegal, on jobs, schools, health care, the environment, national security, are all very serious problems [...] But more serious than all of them put together is this threat to the culture. I believe we are in a clash of civilizations” (Rivera 86).

A more radical message was expressed by a veteran who said: “It should be legal to kill illegals”. This sixty-nine-year-old retired Special Forces veteran continued, “Just shoot’em on sight. That’s my immigration policy recommendation. You break into my country, you die” (32).

Fear of immigration has caused many states to try to criminalize illegal immigration in order to maintain Caucasian political supremacy. In Hazelton, Pennsylvania the town’s mayor, Lou Barletta, threatened to arrest any illegal immigrant, and severely fine anyone offering them food, shelter, or employment. Nevertheless, the most extreme actions against illegal immigration occurred in Arizona where several laws have been passed even though President Obama tried to stop them. The witch hunt against immigrants has forced Mr. Obama to show his birth certificate on T.V. to demonstrate that he was born in the U.S.A. The war against immigrants is evident at all levels. Mr. Obama criticized Arizona’s decision, even though presidents very rarely discuss any state legislation. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a federal judge’s order against the controversial Arizona law, known as SB 1070, which was signed by Gov. Jan Brewer.<sup>1</sup>

In the days leading up to Ms. Brewer’s decision, U.S. Representative for Arizona Raúl M. Grijalva, called for a convention boycott after Arizona passed a law allowing

racial profiling. This means that police could stop people because they looked as they were undocumented and suspect that the person arrested is an illegal immigrant. Those unpopular laws passed by Republicans, G.O.P. or Grand Old Party are welcomed by many politicians such as the subcommittee chair, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.) who said that “Virtually all credible studies show that competition from cheap foreign labor displaces American workers, including legal immigrants, or depresses their wages.” His references include a Hispanic Survey conducted by The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) that found that seven million undocumented immigrants have jobs in the U.S. He said that the study determined that undocumented workers depress wages for all low-skilled workers by \$1,800 a year. Rep. Smith estimated that undocumented workers reduce the wages of low-skilled American workers by 7.4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Arizona proposed five anti-illegal immigration bills, including an attempt to deny birthright citizenship to children of illegal immigrants. Republican lawmakers in Arizona are trying to change “birthright” citizenship laws, but the state Senate rejected a whole series of conservative immigration bills to prevent anchor babies. These laws are some of the broadest and strictest immigration measures in generations. They will enable police to control immigrants because they may be changed to lack immigration documents. Nevertheless, opponents believe that it is an open invitation for harassment and discrimination against Hispanics no matter what their status is. Police would be given the power to check the immigration status of “criminal” suspects and force many businesses to check the status of potential hires.<sup>3</sup>

One of the most important politicians against immigration is Russell Pearce, a state senator and a firebrand on immigration issues with some reported links to Nazism.<sup>4</sup>

Radical politicians and fascist groups as the K.K.K. have a contagious ideology because Georgia recently passed immigration laws very similar to Arizona’s. Republican Gov. Nathan Deal, who campaigned on the promise of implementing an Arizona-style law estimated that Georgia had 480,000 illegal immigrants in 2009 which is about 20,000 more than Arizona.<sup>5</sup>

Some states, including Florida, are considering significant new immigration laws while others, including Nebraska and Colorado, have recently rejected similar bills. Utah passed immigration-control legislation very recently but softened its effects by also passing a law that creates “guest worker” ID cards for undocumented immigrants.<sup>6</sup>

All of these restrictions on the liberties of immigrants in the U.S. are not even comparable to what already happened with Chinese immigrants at end of the nineteenth century. The Treaty Regulating Immigration from China was passed on November 17, 1880 (Malloy, ed. *Treaties, Conventions, etc.* Vol. 1, p. 237 ff.) It proclaimed that

Whereas the Government of the United States, because of the constantly increasing immigration of Chinese laborers to the territory of the United States, and the embarrassments consequent upon such immigration, now desires to negotiate a modification of the existing Treaties which shall not be in direct contravention of their spirit [...] the Government of China agrees that the Government of the United States may regulate, limit, or suspend such coming or residence, but may not absolutely prohibit it.<sup>7</sup>

This infamous law was followed by another one called the Chinese Exclusion Act that was passed on May 6, 1882 (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. XXII: 58 ff.).<sup>8</sup>

It is noteworthy that the GOP are continuously striking out against illegal immigrations because illegal immigrants are unable to vote and therefore do not pose a political threat. The aim of the GOP is to scare minorities supporting anti-immigration policies and calling on Nazis to protest for white power against the rest of the races.<sup>9</sup>

These groups try to separate the U.S.A. from the rest of the continent. It seems that Americans finally abandoned the doctrine and the idea of President Monroe who stated that Latin America was a huge and strategically important region that should be held close.

## 2.2. *English Media against Spanish Speakers*

Politicians are not alone in their crusade against Spanish speaker countries. The xenophobic fear of a “brown tide” washing over America is being fueled by mob-inciting commentators. Geraldo Rivera said that there had even been calls made to lynch him. He comments about that incident “Lynch me? Not just kill me, but a lynching, just like the good old days” (Rivera 28).

It is noteworthy that after Rivera’s confrontation on the Fox News program, *The O’Reilly Factor*, segments of the public media are confronting immigrants and provoking the mob to act against “Hispanic” U.S. citizens. Michelle Malkin, of Fox, is also provoking a campaign of hate against illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, it seems that T.V. broadcasters, journalists and analysts are attacking immigration and motivating people to strike back. That is why many radical groups are organizing against immigrants. Lou Dobbs of CNN made charges against immigrants and the Catholic Church stating that “Tonight, the effort to secure this nation’s borders has a new opponent. It is the Catholic Church”. He commented that just because the Church was not involved in immigration policies, they were supporting immigration. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles wrote a letter to President Bush in December 2005 in which he proclaimed that “Our golden rule has always been to serve people in need-not to verify beforehand their immigration status” (Rivera 195).

### 2.3. *Common Opinion on “Hispanics”*

Journalists are creating a rare atmosphere in the U.S. because some mob agitators are awakening hate among the common citizenry. They know that they are very influential to those who are deeply dissatisfied with their current economic situation. The common opinion of Hispanics by the citizenry was very well described by writer Linda Chavez in a May 2007 column called “Latino Fear and Loathing”. She commented that the common citizenry:

They think Latinos are freeloaders and welfare cheats who are too lazy to learn English. They think Latinos have too many babies, and that Latino kids will dumb down our schools. They think Latinos are dirty, diseased, indolent, and more prone to criminal behaviors. They think Latinos are just too different from us to become real Americans (Rivera 252).

Statistically, “Hispanics” are neither drunker nor more murderous than any other group in the U.S. There are many conflicts between this minority group and the rest of citizens in areas such as immigration, police promotions, Spanish-language libraries, public education, and gang violence. It is noticeable that in Denver Colorado eighty percent of fourteen thousand gang members are “Hispanic” (Rivera 63).

Nevertheless in many cases, people believed that “Hispanics” are treacherous and evil based on their prejudiced and uninformed fear of negative changes. They believe that it results in an increase of crime, taxes, and unemployment, a threat of terrorism from abroad, an introduction of the Spanish language into their societies, and the abuse of public support in areas such as schools, social security, welfare, and other social services (Rivera 28).

The common opinion about immigration can be very easily be found on the web where in some forums people have commented on their fears and questions. For instance, there are topics such as “Will the Hispanics eventually take over the US?” created 06-20-2008, 05:18 AM.<sup>10</sup>

One opinion that can exemplify this viewpoint was expressed in another forum about immigration,

When considering the US government’s failure to drastically reduce the influx of illegal immigrants coming from Mexico and the high fertility rates of Mexican women, both legal and illegal, will our country eventually be taken over by Mexicans and Hispanics? Their population is increasing at an alarming rate and many of the illegal Mexican immigrants probably have no desire to integrate into society or consider themselves American.

Once they become a racial majority, will racial tension increase between Hispanics and whites, blacks, Asians etc? I honestly fear that once they become

the overwhelming racial majority in California they'll feel more loyal to Mexico and try to succeed from the US. Afterwards, racial tension will be on the rise and California will become a racial war zone followed by Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and possibly the rest of the U.S.

Racial tensions broke out between Hispanics and blacks in a Hispanic-dominated Los Angeles high school so will it eventually happen in the U.S. once they become the racial majority? Does anyone think this will occur? (I'm honestly scared that this could be possible)<sup>11</sup>

It is very noticeable that it claims that all Hispanics will be loyal to Mexico, even Argentineans or Spaniards. This unjustified vision is also supported in many books that say that Spanish speakers:

They do not contribute (much) [money] to the system. This generates not only a great financial burden on taxpayers, but also overloads the public infrastructure, thus causing many ills. Ills for which immigrants are blamed include: not speaking English, carrying disease, smuggling drugs, crime, traffic jams, increasing oil prices, long queues, substandard public education institutions, taking jobs from US citizens, reduced farm land, low wages, using filthy language, and making cultural demands (Bradley 121).

Geraldo Rivera has included a series of opinions and letters he received in order to show the common opinion of most of the citizenry. He included a letter which said that "They bring nothing to the American party, but their pregnant bellies and low IQs". This fact can be explained after they discovered that Spanish speakers have a huge dropout rate from public education (Rivera 36).

In another letter commented on by Mr. Rivera the writer gives advice on how to stop illegal immigration saying that

The first order of business is to secure our southern border by installing two parallel fences, 12 feet high and about 25 feet of separation with land mines in between. Signs on the fences should indicate that mines are present. The border patrol should have high-powered rifles, with a warning shot fired first and if the intruder doesn't stop aim straight (Rivera 32).

Geraldo Rivera comments that a wall only exacerbates and radicalizes the flow of illegal immigrants. Many people are threatened by the fact that "Hispanics" are using the American system for their own benefit. Some citizens believe that "I resent my tax dollars being used to provide health care, education, housing, food stamps etc. to people who are in this country illegally. They say Social Security will be bankrupt by 2021" (27).

### 3. THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE WARRIORS AND THE KNIGHTS

Nevertheless, what is really scaring U.S. citizens is what has been called *re-conquista*. It means that “Hispanics”, mostly from Mexico, are gaining back American territory. This movement is called Aztlán and it may be described as the Mexican takeover of U.S.<sup>12</sup>

These web activists proclaim that “We have an aging white America. They are not making babies. They are dying. It is only a matter of time. The explosion is in our population.” They believe that it is normal that Caucasians are getting organized against “Hispanics” because according to Aztlán activists “whites will need it” otherwise they will take control of the whole situation.<sup>13</sup>

However, Aztlán has nothing to do with “Hispanics”, just Mexicans. Many people believe that the territories of Aztlán were once an integral part of Mexican country. Thus, they believe that they should not be considered alien in cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Tucson, San Antonio, where they feel culturally at home. They believe that they are simply reclaiming what was once theirs and expropriated by U.S. imperialism (Navarro 675).

Some Caucasian groups are getting organized to defend their position because they believe that “No one is forcing the reconquista, but it is happening nonetheless, and the rise in Klan membership, is a pushback. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Support immigration reduction and membership for the Klan will decrease”<sup>14</sup>

Therefore, the Klan is recruiting new members to fight back at what is called Aztlán or the U.S. takeover. Modern recruiters are using new technologies to gain support for their crusade. The web is providing a huge boost to spread their ideals. For example, websites, such as Facebook, are organizing extremist groups to attack. Facebook already has shut down some Ku Klux Klan pages.<sup>xv</sup> Nevertheless, Facebook does not allow having this kind of organizations working in their network. They have already defaced and unmasked some white supremacist K.K.K. sites.<sup>16</sup>

It all started in 1865, when a Confederate Army veteran organized the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) as a social club in Pulaski, Tennessee. Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate general, became the Klan’s first Grand Wizard. The name Ku Klux Klan was crafted from the Greek word “kuklos” (circle) and the English word “clan”. They organized and used black robes and hoods, to practice terrorism against African slaves in order to intimidate their entry into politics and to acquire civil rights. Although some Klansmen continue dressed in robes and hoods, today Klansmen are more likely to look virtually indistinguishable from racist skinheads or neo-Nazis.



Nevertheless as early as 1871, the Force Bill was passed in Congress, authorizing the U.S. president to suppress KKK activities. However, in the beginning of the twentieth century, the organization was revived in Alabama with a wider agenda of repression. The KKK became an anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Native American group by the 1920s, with an estimated membership as high as 2 million, after they had acquired considerable political power throughout the American South and in some Midwestern states. In 1920 in Arizona, the Ku Klux Klan became very active in Globe, Miami, Phoenix, Tempe, Prescott and Tucson. The K.K.K. maintained its strong anti-Hispanic philosophy against s in the towns mentioned (Archuleta 226).

Nevertheless, Mexicans and other Spanish speaking groups did not suffer the same degree of KKK terrorism as African Americans. However, an important number of incidents against Hispanics occurred. In 1923, a number of cross burnings around the mining communities of Globe and Miami alarmed many Arizona Mexicans. During that year, there were also reports of Ku Klux Klan cross burnings against Mexicans in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Richmond, California (Rosales 240).

In Texas, KKK activity was more violent against "Hispanics". During the 1921 recession, Texas Rangers had to secure Mexicans who were assaulted by masked men in the towns of Ranger, Eastland, and Breckenridge, among others. Anti-Mexican violence subsided with the end of the recession, but the agricultural economy again faltered in 1926, and these types of outbreaks returned, especially in Texas. During that year, the Houston consul complained that in December, hooded KKK members attacked about 50 Mexican humble peons and 30 Blacks in Sugarland, forcing them to leave. Rangers had to protect Mexican workers just because they accepted low wages. The Klan's influence declined in the 1930's. However, after World War II, they reacted against the African-American movement to obtain full equal civil rights. The Klan picked up strength, and uncoordinated violence against African Americans increased. It is noticeable that Spanish speakers were no longer the main targets of K.K.K. (240-241).

All of these episodes occurred during the twentieth century. However, according to the Anti-Defamation League's civil rights director, Deborah M. Lauter:

The Ku Klux Klan, which just a few years ago seemed static or even moribund compared to other white supremacist movements such as neo-Nazis, experienced a surprising and troubling resurgence during the past year [2006]. The KKK believes that the U.S. is drowning in a tide of non-white immigration, controlled and orchestrated by Jews, and is vigorously trying to bring this message to Americans concerned or fearful of immigration.

If any one single issue or trend can be credited with energizing the Klan, it is the debate over immigration in America. Klan groups have witnessed a surprising and troubling resurgence by exploiting fears of an immigration



explosion, and the debate over immigration has, in turn, helped fuel an increase in Klan activity, with new groups sprouting in parts of the country that have not seen much activity (Rivera 20).

The Anti-Defamation League believes that the Klan activity has been increasing in many parts of the U.S. including in the South: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, in the Midwest: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio, in the Great Plains: Iowa and Nebraska and in the Mid-Atlantic: Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The League believes that:

The troubling Klan resurgence has manifested itself in a number of ways:

- Longstanding groups have increased their activity and experienced a rapid expansion in size.
- New groups have appeared, causing racial tensions in communities previously untroubled by racial issues. They hold anti-immigration rallies and recruitment drives and distribute racist literature with a new emphasis on the immigration issue, and Hispanics.
- Klan groups have become more active in parts of the country that had not seen much activity in recent years, including the Great Plains States such as Iowa and Nebraska, and Mid-Atlantic states such as Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- Klan groups increasingly are cooperating with neo-Nazi groups, especially the Minnesota-based National Socialist Movement.
- The Klan has adopted new publicity tricks, such as sending racist fliers to school teachers during Black History Month, and has embraced the Internet as a means to spread anti-Semitism and racism. One group, the Empire Knights of the KKK, runs an Internet-based radio station, dubbed "KKK Radio," which broadcasts white power music and racist and anti-Semitic propaganda.<sup>17</sup>

It is striking that since the year 2000 according to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the number of anti-immigrant racist hate groups has risen by 40 percent (Rivera 20).

In December 2007, a Florida man was arrested after threatening several "Hispanic" men at knife-point on Christmas Eve. On that occasion, a Cape Coral man arrested on Christmas Eve told police that he was a Nazi and a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He was accused of have been threatening several Hispanic people in Cape Coral with a knife.<sup>18</sup>

Very commonly violent groups react negatively if they perceive they are losing resources, opportunities, and status. Thus, Beck's (1998) study of Ku Klux Klan activity

across the South found a significant correlation between K.K.K. activity and the presence of “Hispanic” immigrant newcomers who were acquiring power. White supremacists were attracted to areas where minority groups were gaining symbolic power. These supremacists have not given up their attitudes against African Americans, but instead they have expanded their targets. The anti-black activities are long-standing, while the anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic discourses have new appeal in those social spaces where the arrival of “Hispanic” immigrants has gained visibility (Worthan 224).

Nevertheless, not all established residents reacted violently against immigrants. Many established residents through churches and community groups, have responded by inviting and recruiting newcomers to join their established local social networks. This was commonly referred as “learning the ropes,” which is a group of politicized residents which are assimilating immigrants with the assistance of service agencies, advocacy work, and adult ESL courses (224).

It is like an open war between radical W.A.S.P. members and newcomers, a battle arena between K.K.K. and “la Raza” supported by Aztlan ideals. It seems that the fight has already began, because on CNN’s *Rick Sanchez Show*, Politician Tom Tancredo claimed that Judge Sotomayor belonged to a racist organization, the National Council of “La Raza” (NCLR), which according to him was a “Latino K.K.K without the hoods or the nooses” (Kuznia, 2009). He then claimed that “the logo for La Raza is “all for the race, nothing for the rest.” However, the motto or logo of the NCLR is “Strengthening America by promoting the advancement of Latino families” (Crile, 2009) (Waltman 97).

A dispute between two racial groups is nothing new in America because they have already witnessed confrontations between racist organizations such as the Aryan Brotherhood and black gangs like the “Crips” and the “Bloods” who even joined together to counterattack. These racial organizations have evolved because they now are wearing Nazi clothes and convincing people with the assistance of the web. They are now accepting Catholics. That is why they are getting independent from political parties or religious doctrines as exemplified when the Ku Klux Klan recently said that it does not condone the Tea Party or the Koran Burning practices.<sup>19</sup>

K.K.K. is getting independent because they believe that they are the last obstacle to stopping Aztlan. The battle arena has already begun.

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## NOTES

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